

Business Notices.

SINGER'S SEWING MACHINES.—Our liberal and admirable plan of exchanging our new and latest improved Sewing Machines for old Machines of every kind, is carried out with pleasure by hundreds. The Avery, Wilson, Grover & Baker, Hunt, Dorrance and other inferior Machines are coming in rapidly to be exchanged. The chance for a profitable bargain is a great one. Apply at our New York office personally, or by letter. J. M. SINGER & Co., No. 323 Broadway.

INDIA RUBBER BOOTS AND OVERSHOES.—A choice assortment of Ladies' and Gentlemen's India Rubber Boots and Shoes—light and beautiful article, manufactured expressly for the City trade—just received and for sale by the wholesale and retail at our New York office personally, or by letter. J. M. SINGER & Co., No. 323 Broadway.

LADIES' INDIA RUBBER BOOTS. No. 295 Broadway, near Chamber-st. A large number of cases received to-day, and now being opened, all new styles and of the very best quality, for sale at low prices.

PIANOS, MELODEONS AND MUSIC.—PRICES MUCH REDUCED.—Cash system adopted.—The modern improved HORACE WATER'S PIANO can be found at No. 323 Broadway. The HORACE WATER'S CATALOGUE OF MUSIC at one-third off.

HOLLOWAY'S OINTMENT.—This grand external remedy, rubbed on the skin, will penetrate the pores, thus reaching the seat of the most dangerous skin complaints, humors, and eruptions.

CRISTADORO'S HAIR-DYE, WHISK AND TOUPERS. stand pre-eminently above all competitors. A suite of elegant private apartments for applying his famous dyes, the greatest standard article for the hair, is kept at the residence of the proprietor, at No. 100 Broadway. The style of Whisk and TOUPERS are perfect. Wholesale and retail at CRISTADORO'S, No. 6 Astor House.

EXCELSIOR FIRE-INSURANCE COMPANY. Office No. 6 Broadway, New York, Jan. 1, 1856.

The Board of Directors have this day declared a semi-annual dividend of TEN PER CENT on the capital stock of the Company, payable on and after the 15th inst. The stock of the Company will be closed until after that date.

HEWY KUCKENBRO, Secretary.

New-York Daily Tribune.

WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 16, 1856.

We shall print, for regular subscribers, over 148,000 copies of THE WEEKLY TRIBUNE of this week. It is, without doubt, the best advertising medium in the country. This is the last day for receiving advertisements for this week's issue. Price, Seventy-five Cents a line.

DOINGS IN CONGRESS.

HOUSE, Jan. 15.—The attempt to adopt the plurality rule to-day failed by four majorities. There were three ballots for Speaker, on the last of which Banks had 93, Richardson, 66; Fuller, 33; Pennington, 9; scattering, 8.

The weather was warmer yesterday than for many days previous. At night there was a cool streak, but at the hour of going to press a thaw was promised for to-day.

A special Committee of the Board of Aldermen met yesterday afternoon for the purpose of investigating the matter of the contested seat of Ald. Drake, Twenty-second Ward. Nicholas Seagrist, the contestant, claims to have received eight more votes than were allowed him by the Ward Commissioners.

The expected organization of the Assembly yesterday was not realized. The day was talked away without balloting.

A dispatch from Washington states that a Republican National Convention has been called (we are not informed upon what authority) to meet at Pittsburgh on the 22d of February.

THE SOFT ADDRESS.

For Mr. Nicholas Hill, jr., and his associates at Syracuse, who have just passed the extraordinary resolutions, (to which we yesterday called the particular attention of our readers,) to prepare the way for their admission into the Cincinnati Convention, in which they prostrated themselves in the dust at the feet of the slaveholders—smiling their brains, and, like so many lepers, crying out: "Unclean! Unclean!"—for these men, just guilty of this signal act of selfish treachery, to undertake to read to the rest of mankind a lecture on political duties, and especially on the observance of good faith, as they do in their address to the People, of which we this morning publish a considerable portion, is certainly a great piece of impudence.

Yet what could Mr. Nicholas Hill, jr., do? His case was a desperate one. Not even a New-York lawyer, whether of the city or of the country Bar, could be found bold enough to venture upon a direct defense of the total Somerset on the Slavery question which the Softs had then and there just completed. But what could not be done directly, might be done indirectly. If the Softs could not be defended, the Republicans, the Know-Nothings, the Temperance men, might be attacked, and the attention of the honest portion of the South party, thus drawn off from the monstrous treason by which Mr. Nicholas Hill, jr., and his associates in iniquity were attempting to barter off the votes of so many honest men—obtained under false pretenses, for the chance of being permitted to retain so many offices in the Custom-House for themselves and their friends.

The attack upon the Republican party exhibits just about the degree of fairness to be expected of such men having such an object in view. It would hardly have done to have told the rank and file of the Soft party that the Republicans occupy precisely the ground and with precisely the same objects which the Barnburners occupied in 1847 and 1848, when they first came into existence as a distinct organization. The fact, therefore, is, totally suppressed that the Republican movement is entirely defensive. Instead of being represented as it is—as a movement to prevent the spread of Slavery into a Territory into which it had been once agreed by the South that Slavery should never go—it is attacked as aggressive movement, started without apology and provocation.

What would Mr. Nicholas Hill, jr., think of a lawyer, who, in arguing a suit for assault and battery, should dwell with emphasis and iteration upon the menacing words and movements of the defendant, without in the slightest degree advert to the facts that those words and movements were caused by an attempt on the part of the plaintiff, Mr. Hill's delectable client, to break into the defendant's house, and whom in fact the defendant had caught in the very act of plundering his goods? By such a plea, Mr. Nicholas Hill, jr., might earn his fee, and therefore accomplish, so far as he himself was concerned, the object of his argument; but he would hardly entrap an intelligent jury into giving him a verdict.

Even apart from all the provocation hitherto given by the South, we can see in these very proceedings at Syracuse, and in this very address of Mr. Nicholas Hill, jr., ample reason for the organization of the Republican party. Not content with stealing Kansas, the slaveholders are at this moment making an attempt to put the State of New-York into their pockets. It is openly given out that nobody is to be allowed to participate in the nomination to be made at Cincinnati, except those who shall agree to make, on the Slavery question, a total surrender to the pretensions of the South. It was indeed by this giving out that the politicians assembled at Syracuse have been forced into the passage of the extraordinary resolutions for which poor Mr. Hill has attempted a roundabout sort of

apology in the address upon which we are commenting.

We have not, of course, a very high opinion of the sensibilities or sense of honor of the persons who composed the Syracuse Convention; but for the honor of human nature we cannot but believe that nothing but the most dreadful pressure could have reduced them to submit to so pitiable a humiliation. And is not this cruelty, exercised upon these fellow-citizens of ours by the Slave Power, acting through the machinery of the Custom-House, ample ground to justify the formation of a party for the putting an end to such tortures? Surely, if, as Mr. Hill lays down the law, the men of the Free States are to be reduced to perfect silence—if, for fear of making a row and disturbance, and provoking the slaveholders to fight us, we are never to utter a word—if that is to pass henceforth in New-York as sound orthodox Democratic doctrine, surely the time has fully come for the formation of a party which might vindicate for us, at least, the privilege of complaining.

GOV. CHASE.

We have received the Inaugural Message of Gov. Chase of Ohio, delivered to the Legislature of that State on Monday last, and publish elsewhere that portion of it which relates to National topics. The parts which touch State interests, though full and able, we have no room nor indeed occasion to copy. The Message is marked by Mr. Chase's characteristic clearness and vigor of statement, and moderation and propriety of tone. We rejoice that Ohio once more has a Governor worthy of her high rank and influential position; but more especially that sound political doctrine has so powerful a spokesman. There are none too many among the States that are ready to stand boldly up to the principles of the early fathers of the Republic. We are fallen upon an age of dough-faces, especially in regard to public functionaries. The great body of the people are sound on the great question of the day, but it has proved extremely difficult for them to find trustworthy exponents of their views. Selling out principle for power and patronage is a too common vice. It is particularly common in our day. Men are chosen to represent certain principles, and then turn round and betray them. Public life is thus full of renegades and traitors. The last Congress furnished numerous examples of political treachery, and the present, though elected under circumstances that would seem to forbid such results, appears likely to distinguish itself by an equally unenviable notoriety. It is truly refreshing, therefore, to find once in a while a man elevated to responsible place, who is elected on a clear principle and sticks to it afterward. Such a man is Mr. Chase. The issue is fairly joined in Ohio on the question of Freedom or Slavery. On that question the battle was fought and won. Ohio stands gloriously out, the first State in wealth, in population, and in resources, of the Mississippi Valley, in behalf of Freedom, and in unequivocal hostility to the further spread of the curse of bondage. Would that every Free State stood by her side! It would be a spectacle worthy of the best days of the Republic; and it would end at once and forever the career of the howling Derivatives of Slavery, and forever put to rest the only controversy that threatens the future tranquility and progress of the nation. The country is vexed, demoralized and disgraced by puny politicians and grave dancers and moral cowards of infinitely asinine development, who are aiming to convert this Government into a vast engine for the unlimited spread of an exceptional and barbarous institution. These people of one or the other class, or of all classes, have the control of the National Administration, of both branches of Congress, and many of the States. Circumstances have favored their reign as they too often do, of wickedness and stupidity, and the leaders of the various motley hosts marshaled in ragged columns against Freedom, are calculating upon further triumphs. The senseless divisions in the Free States are their warrant for this expectation. Majorities against Slavery Extension can be found thick enough, but these majorities have no better occupation in many cases than quarreling over minor topics of public interest; while the ever-vigilant leaders of Slavery Extension avail themselves of the circumstance to forge fetters for us which it will take future violent convulsions to break.

As we fear we are not likely soon to unite all the Free States in one powerful and conclusive effort to resist the spread of Slavery, we rejoice over every State that shows a disposition and a determination to stand up on her own account and fight the battle of Liberty. If we cannot have all at a time, let us be content with one at a time, feeling a sure confidence that sooner or later all will be found ranged and acting together in behalf of the great objects for which the Government was founded. Each State is abundantly strong to act separately and independently, and we trust they will not be long in finding it out. It is high time we had encouraged a little more State pride and self-reliance. The tendency of the times is quite too much to centralization. The individual States are constantly overshadowed by the General Government, some of whose temporary servants have the insolence to threaten and exert themselves to "crush out" the very essence of the political existence of the Free States. But the fact is, that on every question touching personal liberty the individual States are omnipotent within their borders, and in a contest with the General Government on such a question the smallest might defy the Federal power with impunity. Let us, then, have more States to take the position held by Ohio, and more Governors like Gov. Chase. Freedom will then hold a proud front in all possible reverses, and its friends have the true rallying point for their sure and final triumph.

SUMMARY AND CHEAP LAW. In a commercial city like this every one is so intent on his own affairs that people become isolated and the world neighbor is unknown—consequently there is an immense amount of suffering which escapes observation, and of frauds on helpless indigents that are never brought to light. Mr. Smith will trump up some ridiculous pretense to avoid paying his servant; an original Jacobs will hold wages from his sewing-girls. If they grumble, he tells them to sue him if they please. Both these highly honorable gentlemen well know that if they only keep their account at the bank, their credit will not suffer, and that the community will never trouble their heads as to how they treat their domestics. Should any of Jacobs's victims be indebted for a week's rent, the landlord turns her and her children into the street some pleasant, frosty morning, and the baker will not trust her for a penny. If she applies for relief, she is looked at as an impostor and asked, significantly, why she does not go to work? Or if she is unfortunate enough to have a prepossessing appearance, any assistance is frequently given as a consideration

for her prostitution; but a sickly and baggard or emaciated look procures for the friendly advice to seek a hospital, or a recommendation to complain of herself to a Police Justice as a vagrant, and thus procure for herself a residence for a couple of months on Blackwell's Island. Should she mention the fact that there is money due her from Mr. Smith or the original Jacobs, she is told with a sympathetic shrug that they must be great secrets.

When Mayor Wood opened his complaint-book last Winter there was a host of complaints by starving sewing-girls against their employers. The community, who had no idea until then of the villainy and misery that existed, were shocked at those revelations. The Mayor also established an office in the City Hall under the supervision of Mr. Semler, where such cases were referred. Mr. Semler takes their statements, reports the facts to the Mayor and sends an officer to their employer to try and bring him to a settlement, which is in the majority of instances effected. In this silent, unobtrusive way a great deal of good has been accomplished, although law gives no assistance. We do not remember of an instance where the complainant had means to carry on a suit, or where their statements were untrue, or where they could have obtained their money, were it not that their employers were ashamed of such an exposure. It costs a couple of dollars to pay for summons, service and trial-fee before a justice, and usually takes fourteen days to obtain judgment. Can it reasonably be supposed that one of these poor creatures, whose life is a compromise between existence and starvation, can pay such a sum or wait so long for the trifling amount due her? Consequently there are in this city at this moment thousands of indigent laboring persons beyond the pale of civil justice and incapable of enforcing legal rights, and who, if their employer is remiss in paying them at the end of the week at the rate of six or eight cents a shirt, have no resort but charity or a brothel to procure food. It is no hyperbole to say that the ranks of prostitutes in New-York are annually recruited by multitudes of defrauded sewing girls driven to despair by want.

It is very laudable, no doubt, to civilize savages abroad, but it is arrant hypocrisy to do so if at the same time we neglect enacting laws for the preservation of virtue among ourselves. The Mayor may establish as many offices as he pleases, and Mr. Semler who deserves a much better place may scour himself to a shadow by perpetual motion, yet that does not altogether meet the case. We should have some "Court of Conscience" for poor people, where the complaint, judgment and execution can take place on the same day, without cost. Otherwise, the same disgusting scene of fraud, misery and oppression will continue. One fruitful way employers have of defrauding their employees is by an assignment, and which can be made perfect as the law now stands before a judgment can be obtained. The rapidity of proceedings in such a Court would remedy this evil. The Courts of Conscience or Courts of Requests were established in London for similar purposes and objects. They heard all cases for debt not exceeding the value of ten dollars, which they examine in a summary way by the oath of the parties and other witnesses, and make such order therein as is consonant to equity and good conscience. The time and expense of obtaining this summary redress, says Blackstone, are very inconsiderable, which make it a great benefit to trade.

Our legislators who have recently enjoyed their Christmas holidays, and have, we presume, the recollection of their roast turkeys and fat capons in their minds, will not, we are sure, injure their digestion, if, as soon as they organize, they spend some time in contemplating the elementary antithesis that exists between the abundance which they enjoy and the miserable condition of the poor, whose circumstances differ from the common requisites of life; nor will a little simple legislation, to enable day laborers to obtain their wages in a summary way without expense, injure them in the eyes of their constituents.

WHAT THE HARDS THINK OF IT.

Such of our readers as may be curious to know in what light the recent dive of the Softs is regarded by their rivals of the Hard faction will read with interest an article given in another column entitled "The Softs eating dirt at Syracuse," and taken from *The N. Y. Daily News*, the organ of the Hards in this city.

That the Softs have "eaten dirt" at Syracuse, is what cannot be denied. But the Hards must not exult too much over the Softs for that. Is not that dirt which the Softs have at last consented to swallow the very same dirt which the Hards eat habitually, and have eaten from the beginning? It scarcely looks well in the Hards to hold up the Softs to derision and contempt for having at last consented to do that which the Hards have themselves been doing all the time for eight or ten years past. Others may very justly feel for this self-humiliation on the part of the Softs all the contempt which *The News* expresses. Even the Hards may feel it too, but decency ought to prevent them from expressing it. The passion into which *The News* gets, reminds us of an excited colored gentleman whom we encountered the other day, in our walk down town, venting his rage at being choused out of a profitable job by another gentleman of the same dark complexion, by calling upon the bystanders to take notice that his successful rival was "a nigger."

There are other things also which *The News* ought to take into account. Of the utter raciality of the Softs there would seem to be little doubt, yet without their votes how is the Kansas-Nebraska Democracy going to carry this State? Being such selfish individuals as they are, of course their votes are not to be had without a consideration. This, we take it, is the policy upon which Mr. Pierce and Mr. Cushing have acted—and they understand these things very well—in placing the New-York Custom-house in the hands of the Softs; and it seems to us that instead of quarreling with the Administration for this, *The News* ought to see in the new Soft programme laid down at Syracuse, abundant reason to congratulate the Administration on the wisdom of their policy and the success of their maneuver.

Of course the incorruptible Hards, who eat dirt, not to please the President, but because they like it, cannot have been having an eye all the while to being rewarded for their subservience by being put into office. If they "grovel in the dust," of course it can't be "for the sake of miserable offices," but entirely out of devotion to the Union and pure love of the slave-trading party. And does not *The News* see that at this juncture, when there is not a vote to be lost, it is their bounden duty to receive the repentant Softs into their fraternal embrace, and, for the sake of keeping them repentant, to keep

them in office? Did *The News* ever read the parable of the men who stood idle in the market-place till the eleventh hour, because no man had hired them, and who, having entered into the vineyard at that late hour, yet, when pay-time came, received the same allowance with those who had borne the burden and heat of the day? We should advise *The News* to apply to "Scripture Dick" for an exposition of this parable, and a particular application of it to the case of the Administration and the Softs.

The Hards ought to regard their present exclusion from office and the patronage lavished on their rivals, the Softs, as only intended by the Administration for a trial of their faith. Let them again, with the aid of "Scripture Dick," call to mind the case of patient Job, and let *The News* beware how in its vexation it undertakes to give advice like that of Job's wife. Let it remember that there are other ways of showing devotion to slave-trading principles beside the quarterly receipt of salaries from the Treasury of the United States. Let it call to mind the reflection with which the young Milton consoled himself—

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

A DIFFERENCE.

We have often enough expressed our notions of the meaning and purpose of British Free trade. The world is full, however, of people who imagine these catch-words to mean just what would be inferred from combining their significations taken out separately from a dictionary. As we are obliged to conduct a newspaper, not altogether for the benefit of wise men, but contrarywise, in a great measure for the enlightenment of fools, we expect to keep repeating proofs and illustrations of truths often told before. That which we offer now comes on this wise. A proposal was made by a Committee of the Canadian Legislature for the mutual abolition of customs duties upon the productions of Canada and the West-India Colonies. The report of the Committee in question was submitted too late in the session to be brought before the House of Assembly; but the Governor-General communicated it to the then Colonial Secretary, Sir William Molesworth, the fact of such a proposal having been made, and the Colonial Minister, in a dispatch to the Governor of Barbados, took occasion to give the views of the Imperial Government on the subject as follows:

"Her Majesty's Government would regard the proposed arrangement as very objectionable, on the grounds—First, that it would seriously and commercially, so far as such an arrangement is concerned, the Colonies who entered into it from the rest of the Empire. Secondly, that it would be injurious not only to the interests of consumers in the Colonies, who were a party to the arrangement, but to the interests of producers in every other part of the Empire; and, Thirdly, that it would be inconsistent with the Imperial Policy of Free Trade."

It is the earnest desire of her Majesty's Government to maintain and extend a policy which shall closely unite together by ties of mutual interests the whole of her Majesty's Colonial Empire with the Mother Country. To such a policy any measures tending to form the Colonies into separate groups, with peculiar and exceptional commercial relations, would be opposed, and her Majesty's Government therefore trust that they will not be asked to submit for her Majesty's approval acts or ordinances giving effect to measures of that character."

This is not the first instance in which we have obtained valuable information by overhearing John Bull talking to himself, or to his dependents. Simple-minded people are apt to suppose that the removal of any restrictions or impediments in the way of customs duties on the commerce between any two communities is a step, so far as it goes, toward the universal freedom of trade. Such an arrangement between Canada and the West Indies is, however, pronounced by the Colonial Secretary "inconsistent with the Imperial policy of Free Trade"; and he proceeds to define that policy as "one that shall closely unite together by ties of mutual interests the whole of her Majesty's Colonial Empire."

FROM WASHINGTON.

ANOTHER DAY OF NOTHING.

Editorial Correspondence of The N. Y. Tribune.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 14, 1856.

The Senate met this morning, listened to a prayer by their Chaplain, heard their journal read, and instantly adjourned over to Thursday. The whole duration of the sitting may have extended to fifteen minutes.

The reason for this unusual haste is to be sought in some hitch in the caucus machinery with regard to the Printing. It has been once awarded to Nicholson & Forney of *The Union*; but that did not work, and Mr. Forney saw fit to decline, leaving the job (nominally) to Nicholson alone. Still, there is some jar; for the election was to have been held to-day; but the majority came directly out of caucus into the Senate to move and carry the adjournment.

In the House, there was a call attempted at first on motion of John Wheeler, through fear that the anti-Banks men were absent in dangerous numbers. The call was voted down on the Yeas and Nays; but its object was attained by the time spent in defeating it. Then the House proceeded to vote for Speaker, with occasional interruptions for personal explanations, until the time for adjournment. There are more Banks men out of the city just now than of their opponents, and the absurd and ruinous practice of pairing off operates continually against us. Whenever a Richardson man, a Fuller man or a straggler wishes to go away, he finds some Banks man to pair off with him; so that practically all the opponents of Banks act as one party. I think the Banks men should only pair with their leading antagonists, the Nebraska Democracy; if the Fuller men want to pair, let them pair with the bolters and stragglers. "Three upon one" is not fair play.

Mr. BRENTON took occasion to-day to change his vote from Mr. Bennett of New-York to Mr. Thurston of R. I.—very much, I judge, to the relief of the former and the annoyance of the latter, who is one of the most steadfast supporters of Mr. Banks. A little after, he rose again and made a speech about *THE TRIBUNE*, which appears to have said something that "stuck in his crop," though he did not clearly make out what it was. Without consulting any other Member, or asking a meeting of his colleagues in the support of Mr. Banks, (he is Chairman of their meeting,) he rose in his place on the 5th, and gave notice that he should vote no more for Banks—a promise which he has since kept. His apology is that he wished to organize. Now if one man's throwing off from a candidate who had One Hundred and Five votes to one who had none, and was not in nomination, is the way to organize the House, then I do not understand the matter. I have no doubt that we

legislators to strengthen and extend a system at once so ruinous to them, and in so high a degree disgraceful to the whole country.

Our method of responding to the insolent assumptions and braggadoocio pretensions of the South has been adopted, not more with a view to its effect upon the slaveholders than with a view to its effect upon our own domestic dough-faces. We want to show these latter that the Southern overseers, at the snap of whose whip and the mere glance of whose eye they have been so long accustomed to sink trembling into a state of the humblest submission, rolling up the whites of their eyes in an agony of terror, and screaming out, "Oh, massa, don't strike poor nigger!"—we want to show these meat-souled lickspittles, whose base pusillanimity has naturally enough encouraged the slaveholders to go on from one pitch of insolence to another, that this insolence needs only to be met in a spirit of manhood in order to appear the empty thing it is.

If the style of *THE TRIBUNE* appears to dough-face journals a little too demonstrative,—if, in our comments upon gubernatorial messages and legislative speeches and proceedings at the South, we seem to depart too much from the kid-glove style most suitable in their judgment for the handling of these delicate subjects,—we beg to assure those journals that we have adopted this style not to gratify any boisterous and uncivil humor of our own, but rather in the hope of encouraging them to venture upon some little exhibition of manly spirit and a free respect.

When the Press of the North shall have generally learned—and it is making rapid progress that way—to treat with the cool indifference they deserve, the airs, assumptions, dictatorial, domineering pretensions and empty threats of our Southern brethren about disunion, civil war, and the ruin of Northern commerce and manufactures, we shall ourselves very willingly relapse into the same state of cool indifference. Instead of showing up the follies and nonsense of our Southern brethren, we shall be ready at all times to throw a kindly veil over weaknesses, which, being understood and recognized as such, become proper objects of pity and commiseration. A stranger who should visit this city, and under the false pretense of being a person of great wealth and consequence at home, should run in debt to our tradesmen, turn the heads of our women, and deceive the whole city, would need to be exposed, and that in terms which would be neither necessary nor expedient in the case of a similar person who was well understood to be suffering from hallucination of mind, and whose vapors and great talk, as they imposed upon nobody, would require no notice on the part of the Press.

The American Democrat of Monday contains a letter from Dr. Valk, M. C., complaining that though assailed in *THE TRIBUNE*, he is not allowed the privilege of replying through the same medium. What would Dr. Valk have? On Tuesday last we published his reply, which was sufficiently impudent, considering we had in our hands no poorer evidence than is afforded by his own handwriting, and the testimony of some respectable citizens of his District, to prove that his reply was false, and the charges against him true. How, then, can Valk and this *American Democrat* now have the assurance to declaim about our allowing him to be assailed in our columns, and then refusing to let him be heard in his own defense? We respectfully suggest to both the Know-Nothing journal and the Know-Nothing M. C. that nobody has done anything to destroy all public consideration for that distinguished Know-Nothing except the gentleman himself; and that repentance and silence on his part would, under the circumstances, be much more becoming than bluster.

Parker H. French was arrested yesterday by the United States Marshal, on the authority of a bench warrant, and after the lapse of half an hour was informed that his arrest had terminated, without bail, parole or recognition of any kind. Col. French was told by Marshal Hinton that he must consider himself arrested, at about 3 o'clock p. m. Half an hour later the order was countermanded.

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should have seen the House organized on this but for Mr. Brenton's most unwise and factious bolt. If he were dissatisfied with Mr. Banks as a candidate, why not ask a conference with his fellow-Republicans, state his view of the matter, and ask them to unite in the selection of another candidate? Then it became him to hear what they had to offer on the subject, and be guided in some degree by their convictions. He did the exact opposite of this, in a most factious and headstrong spirit, and thereby delayed the consummation which he professes to desire. His speech to-day was every way beneath notice. Let him pass.

From Our Own Correspondent.

WASHINGTON, Monday, Jan. 14, 1856.

It is given out in diplomatic quarters that the British Legation and the sympathizing influences here take in high dudgeon the dismissal of Mr. Crampton and his recruiting *confidants*, and threaten that the diplomatic and commercial interests shall only be represented by a subordinate. They should remember that a matter of large policy like this must be determined by wiser and superior councils, and should not forget that this very step may help to upset the Ministry upon which their hopes of retaliation are predicated. A little patience may be prudently exercised until the official answer of Great Britain shall be received. Then we will see whether Lord Palmerston will court a rupture with the United States, for no other reason than a proper vindication of our neutrality laws. The Administration here is ready to receive any Minister or Consul who will conform to the well-known laws and usages of the country; but it will neither receive nor permit officials to remain in the exercise of authority who willfully set both at defiance. We are interested in maintaining friendly relations with England, but not at the expense of national honor, or by the forfeiture of national dignity.

The rumor of the threatened presence of a French and English fleet near San Juan, and the inference drawn from it of a complication with the Central American question, have not been fortified by any official information here. When the British squadron on the West India station was renewed and augmented, it was brought to the special notice of Lord Clarendon, with a direct inquiry as to its meaning. He disclaimed any purpose, direct or contingent, which contemplated a rupture with the United States, and explained the augmentation of force in this quarter as occasioned solely by the withdrawal of the fleet from the scene of active war, and an indisposition upon the part of the Government to lay the ships up in the dock-yards at home. Doubtless this explanation was true at the time, and the attending circumstances seemed to verify all the reasons which were urged.

But while there may be no appearance of a hostile force at or near San Juan just now, the fact must not be kept out of view that Nicaragua, having abandoned much of her former confidence in and affection for the United States, is strongly disposed—if she has not already made overtures to form alliances that may be prejudicial to us. Whatever differences of opinion may exist among the people of this country as to the policy and practicability of the Monroe doctrine, there would be but one voice in resisting any attempt to establish a foreign power in command of the great connection between the two oceans. Nicaragua would make a fatal mistake for herself in encouraging such a relation with the Governments of Europe, since the inevitable effect of any serious collision resulting from this cause would be the inevitable extinction of her nationality, without the hope of resurrection. Enfeebled by intestine strife, and by constant revolution, Nicaragua has barely been able to preserve her existence at all. And now that her soil is invaded by armed adventurers from the United States, she is more than ever entitled to our sympathy and aid. But causes like these should not recommend a desperate resort, which, without securing any permanent advantage, must, if pursued—as now appears to be understood—forever alienate the friendship and the protection of the Government and people of this country.

The announcement of ex-Gov. Bigler's nomination as U. S. Senator by the Democratic Caucus at Harrisburg was at first welcomed here with great satisfaction by those who supposed this to be an indirect blow aimed at Mr. Buchanan, and thus a quasi triumph of the Administration. But even this small crumb of comfort is denied to the hungry seekers after artificial popularity. Gov. Bigler acquiesces in the preference of the State for Mr. Buchanan, and will contribute his efforts to aid that direction of opinion. He was not, it is true, the particular choice of Mr. Buchanan's peculiar friends and self-elected managers, but still for that reason he may be able to advance his cause more materially, and serve the purpose for which he was chosen better in the Senate of the United States.

AFFAIRS IN ALBANY.

THE SPEAKERSHIP.

From Our Own Correspondent.

ALBANY, Monday, Jan. 14, 1856.

Day is dawning. There is a prospect for an organization of the House of Assembly, and that to-morrow. But who will be the Speaker, who the Clerk, who have charge of the doors, &c., is not quite so clear. Mr. Foot's resolution of Saturday, providing for adopting the plurality rule after three votes on Tuesday morning, was called up by Mr. B. Smith, when Mr. Foot proposed several corrections, rather than amendments, so that the plurality rule might take effect to-morrow, instead of a week from to-morrow (as it would under the reading of Saturday's resolution).

This gave rise to various amendments and a protracted debate, the Know-Nothings insisting upon the adoption of the plurality rule instantly. Time was thus consumed until long after the usual adjourning hour, when Mr. Foot hit upon a more expeditious mode of coming to a vote on his resolution. It was to withdraw his proposition, which stood before the House as an amendment, and offer it as an entirely new one. Upon this he called for the previous question. His call was promptly seconded by all parties, and his resolution carried also by all parties voting for it.

The question now arises, Who will be elected under the plurality rule? Mr. Odell (Know-Nothing), has commanded the united vote of the Know-Nothings, together with four supposed Democrats. He has received a plurality of votes. Mr. Bailey (Democrat) has received only 35 of the 46 Democrats (counting out the four who went over to Odell), and Prendergast (Republican) has commanded the united support of the Republicans—35.

There were no indications this morning of a union among the Democrats, though I am sure the Republicans would rather see a Democrat elected. In fact, Mr. Foot declared this morning that the presiding officer belonged to the Democrats. The chances were, Odell, the Know-Nothing candidate, though between this and to-morrow morning there is time enough to revolutionize everything connected with the matter. There can now be an election without any fusion, and it remains to be seen whether the Democrats will recede the price, or give it to the Know-Nothings.

The Governor has appointed Col. E. H. SCHERMERHORN of New-York, Engineer-in-Chief in his military staff, in place of Gen. J. J. Chambers, resigned, and Major SAMUEL C. THOMAS of New-York, Aid-de-Camp, with rank of Colonel, in place of Col. Schermernhorn, promoted.

[We are told that some curious developments are expected in print, in regard to the resignation of Mr. Chambers.] [Ed.]

OHIO.—A caucus of the Republican members of the Ohio Legislature recently adopted the following resolution by a unanimous vote:

Resolved, That we, the Anti-Administration members of the House of Representatives of the State of Ohio, approve of the course pursued by the members of the Ohio Legislature in Congress who are at present voting and adhering to Mr. Banks of Massachusetts for Speaker of that body, and that we further recommend to the friends of that body